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THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

consists of large floral effects, the motive being a Scotch thistle in a wool weave. The floating "skin" comes in tints of vieux rose, blonde and Nile green. There is also shown an example of taffeta, a peculiar weave which is sometimes known as Australian tapestry, by reason of the fact that the first species that were manufactured were sent to Australia. Altogether, Messrs. Sloane's exhibit is one of surpassing splendor.

CALCORION.



NE of the latest substances for the decoration of walls in relief is termed "Calcorion," which is styled by the manufacturers "the new Cordovan leathern wall decoration," by which the richly embossed effects of fine old leather are reproduced. Cordovan leather was the most

beautiful and unique of all antique embossed leathers, and it is upon the beautiful designs that are executed upon the rarest specimens of Cordovan leather, that the designs of Calcorion are based. The Moors in Cordova made that city famous for its decorated leathers as early as the eleventh century. The first designs were executed by cutting the leather with a penknife only, but at a later date this primitive method was superseded by the use of various punching tools, by means of which hatched, sunk or raised ornament was traced. The old process of preparing Cordovan leathers is worthy of note, and is thus described by M. Henri Mayeux in his work, entitled "Decorative Composition." "Guadamacils, or prepared squares of skins (so-called from a small Andalusian village where large quantities of skins were dressed), were first soaked and then beaten between stones to make them supple. Each square was then washed and wrung dry, preparatory to being stretched by means of an iron frame over a highly polished slab, where it was allowed to remain till dry. A thin size was next rubbed into the skin with the hands, and a surface of gold or silver leaf, or some color, was then imparted. When again dry, the leather so prepared was ready to receive the pattern intended to be embossed. This was effected by a wooden plate on which the design was carved. The plate, being first inked with resinous preparation, the skin was stretched tight over it, and pressed so as to take off the impression. This done, the last and perhaps most laborious stage was reached, as the workmen had then to emboss on the leather the pattern which had become printed on it. The final stage of coloring and trimming being thus attained, the leather decoration was complete. The great charm of leather hangings was their beauty of design, rich coloring, boldness of execution, variety of pattern, and their elegance of appearance. The Cordovan leathers were prized as having great advantages over other hangings; they were of greater durability—they resisted the effects of damp, gathered little dust, and were less subject to the ravages of the moth. Calcorion is, in effect, with modern mechanical appliances, a reproduction of this almost extinct art. Such few old leathers as survive the wear and tear of centuries, bear testimony to the beauty of the old leather hangings. It is now upwards of a century since the last commercial house engaged in the leathern decoration trade closed its doors in Paris. After spreading in the course of centuries through France and the Netherlands, Spain, Hungary and England, the trade declined through the seventeenth century and finally died out in the eighteenth."

Calcorion is one of the most perfect imitations of old embossed leather yet produced. The material is a combination of stout paper, ground cork and India rubber, which imparts to it an elasticity equal to that of stamped leather. The designs are embossed by passing the material through stamped, or chased, metal rollers worked by powerful steam machinery. In its natural state it is of a pale buff hue, but the Company produce designs effectively decorated without additional cost. The decoration includes the coloring, glazing and treatment in gold, silver and bronze, performed entirely by hand with a thorough appreciation of the artistic possibilities of this high class decoration. The Calcorion Decorative Co., of London, are the manufacturers of this unique material, which is highly esteemed by decorators, and all who appreciate art, in its application to household adornment. The chief claim of Calcorion to public attention is the fact that it is an essentially modern reproduction of the beautiful designs peculiar to the best period of Cordovan art. The patterns, whether scrolls, flowers or fruit, or simply arabesques, possess a historical as well as a decorative value, and the material is generally made in rolls of twelve yards.

Calcorion can be hung in the usual manner, great care being necessary in cutting the edges. In using the straight edge, the material is cut with a sharp knife, held at a slight inward inclination, so as to undercut the material, and thus insure a good joint. It is fixed to the wall with paste mixed with a little glue. The paste is first applied to the wall, and not to the Calcorion, which should be hung dry. It is frequently desirable to cover the surface of the wall with a stout lining paper before applying

the paste. The wall being prepared, the Calcorion is attached to it under the cornice by means of gilt pins. The piece is then gently pressed to the wall, making the joint good until it touches the bottom. Care must be taken to press the material from the centre outwards, and it should be noted that the adhesion of the surface, and not of the embossed parts, is all that is necessary. It is sometimes preferable that Calcorion should be hung in the same way as the old embossed leathers were fixed to the walls. This method consists in pasting or tacking the edges only, and covering the joints with narrow bands of ornamented leather, attached by means of fancy studs. The Calcorion then hangs loosely against the wall, and has the advantage of being readily removed, without injury to the material, a desideratum of some importance in a restless nation like that of the United States.

GLASS DECORATION.

THE use of decorated glass in modern buildings is becoming every day more and more widespread. Not only is stained glass used in transom and dome lights, but the ordinary clear glass used in windows, doors and partitions, is either embossed by means of an acid process, or etched by a sand blast, creating a new world of decoration. There is the ordinary ground glass on which one can write with a pencil, but this method of decoration has been superseded by the silver embossed process, which renders the glass at once obscure and translucent, and which will not receive pencil marks or finger stains. The decorations consist of scrolls, diamond, square and circular repeats, decorated borders, monograms, numbering and lettering of all kinds for commercial purposes. Glass signs are being used everywhere nowadays, and one of the most successful firms in the United States, manufacturing these, is the Matthews Decorative Glass Company, of 328 and 330 East 26th Street, New York, who furnish everything in the line of decorative glass, from a church window to a cigar advertisement in the highest style of art. Those of our readers who have seen a beautiful glass dial plate in blue and white, etched with various commercial legends, ought to be informed that this is one of the latest designs of the Matthews Decorative Glass Company. Nothing so adds to the artistic beauty of a vestibule or hallway as to see the inside door having a panel of decorated glass. A panel of chipped glass, that seems to be sliced from the irregular face of a crystal rock, is a brilliant accompaniment to the decorative surroundings. Glass is not only crystalline, but it can be had in blue, ruby, violet, orange and purple tints. "Photo-lights," or etched glass for the use of photographers in composing pictures in their lanterns, are universally used by photographers. In decorating partitions, designs similar to those of wall paper are etched upon white, ruby, blue and orange glass. The designs are frequently floral patterns with grounds resembling irregular combed work. There are scroll repeats, intermingling circles and various styles of arabesques. Sometimes the pattern will resemble a brocaded fabric not unlike the designs found on fifteenth century tapestry, and again will consist of an artistic intermingling of the different species of ferns. A beautiful pattern has for its motive a conventional treatment of the lily of the valley, which, with its tender flowers and long, smooth leaves, produces a most decorative effect. A catalogue of the various uses to which decorative glass is nowadays applied, would make a voluminous list. The glass decorations used in railroad car doors, windows, transoms, deck lights, etc., form a distinct category. Transparent glass signs are used not only by the largest advertisers in the country, but by physicians, drug stores, telegraph and railroad companies. Glass signs being transparent, do the double service of being equally readable by night as well as by day. Another feature is that, through being transparent, they do not shut out any light to speak of, when suspended in store windows, and for this reason are not objected to by storekeepers, who object to opaque signs.

Who of us, at one time or other, has not seen the legends, "Duke's Best Cigarettes," "Sapolio," "Saratoga Geyser," "Piper's Heidseck," "Lazelle's Perfumes," "Pond's Extract," "Friedrichshall Bitter Water," "Cocoa and Beef Tonic," "Vaseline," "Vichy," and "Humphrey's Homœopathic Specifics," inscribed on white and blue, red and white, and brown and white glass signs? These are the work of the Matthews Decorative Glass Company, whose standard decorations have been adopted in the new buildings of the Mutual Life Insurance Company, and the Standard Oil Company, the Chatham National Bank, the Edison Electric Light Company, and many other buildings in New York City and elsewhere. This firm distributes illuminated catalogues, illustrating their decorations in glass, to all who apply for same.

WALL paper with loose, flowing patterns or arabesques in light greens, grays, blues and yellows will harmonize with photographs, prints and delicate water colors.